



# ACUB Fact Sheet

## Fort Stewart



### Background

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are the home of the 3rd Infantry Division, and combine to be the Army's Premier Power Projection Platform on the Atlantic Coast. It is the largest, most effective and efficient armor training base east of the Mississippi River, covering 280,000 acres including parts of Liberty, Long, Tattnall, Evans and Bryan counties in southeast Georgia.

Encroachment impacts on the current mission are relatively minor due to the installation's large size and mostly rural surroundings. The potential for future encroachment; however, is significant as incompatible development moves closer to the installation, and as Fort Stewart seeks to develop and site new facilities that will likely be required to support future missions.

Fort Stewart is located in the heart of the once vast longleaf pine ecosystem. Today, less than 3 million acres of longleaf forest remain, and less than 3 percent of this acreage is considered to be in relatively natural condition. The rest has been converted to agricultural use, developed, converted to short rotation slash and loblolly pine plantations, or degraded by interruption of the natural fire regime that sustains this ecosystem. Most of the longleaf landscape burns much less often due to modern fire suppression technology and fragmentation of the landscape. However, Fort Stewart's live fire training frequently starts forest fires, and military land managers use prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risks. Thus, Fort Stewart supports some of the best remaining examples of longleaf forest. The installation is home to 6 federally listed species and 20 state listed or federal species of concern.

### Objective

Through the ACUB program, Fort Stewart and the ACUB partners established the Coastal Georgia Private Lands Initiative. The Initiative will protect approximately 120,000 acres surrounding Fort Stewart using conservation easements that limit development and protect sensitive environments. The Initiative also will create a corridor

between Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart along the Forest River and the Ogeechee River.

### Partners

#### The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. For further information on the Trust for Public Land, call 404 873-7306 or visit <http://www.tpl.org/>.

#### The Nature Conservancy, The Georgia Chapter

The Georgia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy endeavors to protect diverse natural communities through the purchase of land. They purchase the lands and easements from the private landowner with Army, and other ACUB partnership funds. For further information on the Nature Conservancy, call 404-873-6946 or visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/georgia/>.

#### Georgia Land Trust

The Georgia Land Trust works with landowners to help protect their land for present and future generations. The Georgia Land Trust focuses on assisting landowners with conservation options for their land, primarily with conservation easements. For further information on the Georgia Land Trust, call 706-892-9686 or visit <http://www.galandtrust.org/>.

### Installation ACUB POC

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